

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.(Currently Amended) A valve prosthesis apparatus, in particular for cardiac applications, apparatus (10) comprising a valve prosthesis (20) applied on a suture ring (30); apparatus (10) that is characterised in that wherein said valve prosthesis (20) is fastened to said suture ring (30) by magnetic means (21d, 30b).

2.(Currently Amended) Valve prosthesis apparatus (10) ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, characterised in that wherein said magnetic means (21d, 30b) are contained in a respective continuous groove (21e, 30a) obtained respectively on said valve prosthesis (20) and on said suture ring (30).

3.(Currently Amended) Apparatus (10) ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 2, characterised in that wherein at least one part of said magnetic means (21d) are contained in a continuous groove (21e, 30a) obtained in a stent (21), which is a part of said valve prosthesis (20).

4.(Currently Amended) Apparatus (10) ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 2, characterised in that wherein said magnetic means (21d, 30b) comprise a plurality of magnets (21d, 30b).

5.(Currently Amended) Apparatus (10) ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 2, characterised in that wherein said magnetic means (21d, 30b) comprise magnets with annular shape

6.(Currently Amended) Apparatus (10) ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, characterised in that wherein said valve prosthesis (20) comprises a stent (21) and valve strips (40).

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~(10)~~ as claimed in according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said valve strips ~~(40)~~ are made of a biomaterial.

8.(Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~(10)~~ as claimed in according to claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said biomaterial is derived from corneal stroma, in particular from corneal stroma of tuna fish.

9.(Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~(10)~~ as claimed in according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein at least one portion of said valve prosthesis ~~(20)~~ and at least one portion of said suture ring ~~(30)~~ are coated by a synthetic tissue ~~(50)~~ able to facilitate the suture of said valve prosthesis ~~(20)~~ and of said suture ring ~~(30)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~(10)~~ as claimed in according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said valve prosthesis and said suture ring are made of deformable materials such as to allow their insertion into the body of a patient through a catheter, i.e. without having to proceed to a traditional heart surgery operation.

11.(Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~(10)~~ as claimed in according to claim 10, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the magnets are immersed in said deformable materials.

12.(Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~(10)~~ as claimed in according to claim 10 , ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the suture ring is made of a synthetic material, in particular polyester.

13. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~(10)~~ as claimed in according to claim 10, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the suture ring has a plurality of hooks able to facilitate its fastening in the implant site.

14. (Original) A system for implanting in the human body a prosthetic apparatus comprising a magnetic valve prosthesis and a magnetic suture ring which are easily deformable by compression; said implant system comprising the following steps:

- (a) temporarily reducing by compression the dimensions of the magnetic valve prosthesis (module no. 2) and the magnetic suture ring (module no. 1) in such a way as to allow their insertion in a catheter able to transport said modules no. 1 and no. 2 in the implant site;
- (b) inserting said catheter carrying said modules no. 1 and no. 2 into a peripheral vein or artery under constant angiographic control;
- (c) releasing the suture ring, which is expanded until assuming the original dimensions, once it reaches the implant site;
- (d) fastening said suture ring in the implant site;
- (e) releasing the valve prosthesis, which is expanded until assuming the original dimensions, once it reaches the implant site; and
- (f) magnetically fastening said valve prosthesis to said suture ring.